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Tennessee River Missionary Baptist Association

v. 1. 1890

v. 2. 1891

v. 3. 1892

v. 4. 1893

v. 5. 1895

v. 6. 1897

v. 7. 1898

v. 8: 1899

v. 9: 1900

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Tennessee River Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

MOUNT NEBO CHURCH,

JACKSON COUNTY, ALABAMA,

October 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1897.

OFFICERS:

J. J. BEESON, Moderator, - - - - Pisgah, Ala.
JOHN T. RICHARDS, Clerk, - - - - Pisgah, Ala.
MILTON ROACH, Treasurer, - - - - Fackler, Ala.

SCOTTSBORO, ALA.:
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1897.

INTRODUCTORY.

FIRST DAY, FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 1897.

MORNING SESSION.

The introductory services of the Association were opened by singing No. 40, Perennial Songs, "All hail the power of Jesus name."

Brother W. L. Crawford, who was elected at the last annual session to preach the introductory sermon, was present, but on account of being sick was excused.

1st. On motion the Moderator, J. J. Beeson, was selected in his stead, the alternate, W. L. White, not being present. The brother read from the 20th chapter of Acts of the Apostles. At the conclusion of the reading the Association was lead in prayer by J. J. Beeson. After prayer the congregation sang No. 64, Perennial Songs, "There is a fountain filled with blood."

He selected as his text the 26th and 27th verses of the 20th chapter of the Acts of the Aposties.

26. "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men."

27. "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

The brother took up the work of the Association and outlined and enlarged upon the responsibility of doing the Lord's work. We regard it a model introductory discourse, full of thought, suggestions and encouragement. At the conclusion of the sermon the congregation sang No 107, Perennial songs, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound."

After a few remarks by Brother Preston Brown, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, J. J. Beeson.

PROCEEDINGS.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2nd. On motion, the Association proceeded with the regular business of the body, the Moderator appointing Brothers Robert Butler and Thomas Davis to read the church letters. The churches were then called in their regular order by the Moderator. The following churches responded by letter and delegates, or by letter:

1. Bridgeport—No letter or delegate.
2. Beech Grove—J. R. Summerell, E. J. D. Kennedy, A. W. Pouge, O. M. Watson and M. A. Davis.
3. Bethel—J. E. Hammon, L. T. Webb.
4. Centennial—W. M. Chandler, P. A. Carlisle.
5. Cave Spring—Isaac Mathews.
6. Centre Point—J. P. McClendon, Lifus Reaves, James McClenton.
7. Freedom—W. T. Trice, Samuel Butler, P. P. Prince, Monroe Vandever, W. W. Reid.
8. Friendship—Milton Roach, A. P. Womack, W. R. Middleton.
9. Hollywood—J. F. McCarrell, G. P. Bouldin.
10. Harmony—J. J. St. Clair, W. B. Campbell, J. M. Proctor.
11. Gurley—J. Beason, delegate; no letter.
12. Goosepond—J. L. Walsh, W. Grayson.
13. Larkinsville—E. P. Cowart, Nelson Cowart.
14. Mt. Nebo—W. J. B. Padgett, Thomas Davis, E. Williams, J. J. Cunningham.
15. Mt. Zion—D. I. Durham.
16. Mt. Tabor—J. H. Fuller.
17. Mt. Pisgah—B. M. Bradford, Eugene Thomas, John Younginer, John T. Richards.
18. Mt. Moriah—W. A. Casey, L. L. Stephens, Jackson Evett, Joseph Humphreys.
19. Mountain Grove—Not represented.
20. Mt. Ararat—J. A. Berry.

21. McCoy's Grove—Letter; no delegate.
22. New Hope—J. F. Bell.
23. Pleasant View—Not represented.
24. Scottsboro—C. B. Beard, Riley Garland.
25. Ship of Zion—Not represented.
26. Trenton—L. E. Smith, H. A. Webb, W. A. Wilbourn.

MINISTERIAL DELEGATES PRESENT.—P. Brown, J. J. Beeson, W. L. Crawford, M. Hill, C. Howell, R. M. Higginbotham, L. B. Irvin, H. Knight.

The letters show regularly appointed delegates to be 81; ministerial delegates 20. Total 101 – 58 present.

From the letters it appears that there has been an increase in membership of 90. There are some irregularities that may increase the above figures some, for I find that some of the clerks have based their reports from the figures of the year 1895 instead of 1896, thereby doing injustice to the membership.

The amount of money raised during the year, as reported by letters, appears to be: For missions, $186.86; and for all purposes, $1,150.24. Total, $1,337. There are some irregularities in the reports, and it is the opinion of your clerk that a much larger sum has been raised for all purposes, for I find that some letters make no report of any money—not even money for the printing of the minutes. Brethren, please be more careful about this matter, and give it your careful attention and gather up all matters of interest. CLERK.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

MODERATOR, CLERK AND TREASURER.

3rd. On motion the Association proceeded to the election of Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. The Moderator appointed Brothers John West, of the Duck River Association of Tennessee, and J. G. Lowery, of the Birmingham Association of Alabama, as tellers, to receive, count and declare the result of the ballot. The tellers, after counting the ballots, reported that J. J. Beeson was re-elected moderator, John T. Richards, clerk, and Milton Roach, treasurer.

4th. The moderator called for petitionary letters. A letter was presented from McCoy's Grove, of Jackson County, Alabama, asking to become a member of the Association.

5th. On motion the McCoy's Grove Church was received into the Association.

6th. On motion the moderator invited corresponding messengers and visiting brethren of the same faith and order to seats with the Association. Brothers A. Sisk and John West, of the Duck River Association, and J. G. Lowrey, of the Birmingham Association, also Brothers C. L. Lovelady and M. Ducket, of the Colored Paint Rock River Association, were recognized by the moderator extending the hand of fellowship, inviting the brethren to seats. Brother J. G. Lowrev, representative or the Howard College, was, on motion, recognized by the Association as agent for the Alabama Baptist. Beimg given an opportunity to address the Association, he gave us a very interesting talk upon the subject of Denominational and Ministerial Education, the Judson College, the State Board of Missions, the Alabama Baptist and our Orphan's Home, which we hope will bring forth fruit.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

7th. Religious Services—W. J. B. Padgett, C. Howell, R. C. Horton.

Obituaries—W. T. Trice, J. A. Berry, J. F. McCarrell.

Finance—Milton Roach, E. J. D. Kennedy, J. P. McClendon.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Associational Missions—W. L. Crawford, M. Hill, James McClendon.

State Missions—G. P. Bouldin, J. F. McCarrell, George Warren.

Home Missions—Milton Roach, R. Howell, Pleas Coffey.

Foreign Missions—C. Howell, Robert Butler, J. A. Eaves.

Denominational Education—Nelson Cowart, Miles Morris, John Younginer.

Ministerial Education—J. M. McCord, W. W. Howard, Charles Beard.

Temperance—E. J. D. Kennedy, M. H. Davis, A. W. Pogue.

Sunday-school Work—John T. Richards, J. H. Fuller, A. P. Womack.

Woman's Work.—Misses Bettie Beard, Maymie Larkin, Ella Beeson.

Religious Literature—C. T. Roach, James McCloud, Joseph S. Smalley.

Orphanage—B. M. Bradford, L. B. Irvin, E. T. Thomas.

8th. The committee on religious services announced that Brothers A. Sisk, of the Duck River Association, and R. M. Higginbotham would preach at this church tonight at 7 o'clock, and Brother W. L. Crawford at this church tomorrow at 11 o'clock, a. m.

9th. On Motion the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. The Association sang: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Benediction by Brother J. G. Lowrey.

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 1897.

MORNING SESSION.

The Association met according to adjournment. Called to order by the moderator, who read the First Psalm. The congregation sang: "There is a fountain filled with blood." Prayer by Brother L. B. Irvin.

10th. The moderator requested the clerk to call the names of the delegates and correct the same. Ministerial delegates were then enrolled.

ORDAINED MINISTERS PRESENT.—P. Brown, J. J. Beeson, W. L. Crawford, C. Howell, M. Hill, R. M. Higginbotham, L. B. Irvin, H. Knight.

In compliance with a request from Brother Eaves, pastor of this (Mt. Nebo) Church, who was confined at home on account of sickness, the Association suspended all business and offered prayer for the brother and family. The Association was led in prayer by Brother P. Brown, by request of Brother Eaves, after which the Association resumed the regular order of business. The following brethren were appointed to fill vacancies in standing committees, to report at this meeting:

State Missions—P. Brown, J. H. Fuller, Thoman Davis.

Home Missions—R. C. Horton, W. P. Culver, L. B. Irvin.

Foreign Missions—W. L. Crawford, John Cunningham, M. Hill.

Denominational Education—G. Bouldin, John Younginer, J. G. Lowrey.

11th. On motion the committees were granted the privilege to retire at any time to prepare their reports. The matter of chooing time and place of next meeting was next taken up.

12th. No church having applied for it, by letter or appli-

cant but Beech Grove, a motion was made and carried that this Association meet with Beech Grove Church on Friday after the Fourth Sunday of next September, 1898.

13th. On motion Brother W. L. Crawford was selected to preach the introductory sermon and J. J. Beeson, alternate, at the next annual session of this Association.

14th. The moderator then proceeded to call for reports from the standing committees. The report on Associational Missions, not being ready, was passed for the present. The moderator called P. Brown to the chair and retired with the Committee on Associational Missions. The moderator called for the report on Denominational Education. Report read by G. Bouldin.

15. On motion the discussion of this subject was deferred until the report on Ministerial Education was read, then discussed jointly. Report on Ministerial Education was read by the clerk. The reports were ably discussed by J. G. Lowrey, P. Brown, A. P. Womack.

16th. On motion the reports were adopted.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Your committee submit the following:

The importance of Christian and denominational education can hardly be overestimated. The necessity of heart culture in connection with the development of the mental faculties is apparent to every one who has given thought to this great subject. Not only is it important that we have religious training, but it is also of vast importance that this training be in strict accord with the teachings of God's Word. We would, therefore, recommend Howard College, located at East Lake, Ala., for our young men and boys. In this school the Bible is one of the text books, with Rev. W. A. Hobson as teacher. We also recommend the Judson Institute for our young ladies and girls, located at Marion, Ala. These schools are Baptist schools, and are worthy of and ought to receive the patronage of our people.

Respectfully submitted,

G. P. BOULDIN,

J. D. YOUNGINER,

COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee submit the following:

We, as Baptists, believe in a call of God to the ministry, and that the hearts of men are qualified by the Holy Ghost. But we believe mental training to be a great help to the ministry in its great work. As ministers, we need the very best help that God has placed within our reach. Experience and observation teach us that an educated ministry is the most efficient. We believe the churches to be an important factor in the work of educating the ministers. If Baptist churches would lay aside the traditions and customs of men and return to the primitive landmarks of the gospel, a long stride forward would be taken in the direction of an educated ministry. A great many of our people say if we assist our young preachers in getting an education they soon leave us for other fields. To this we say, the churches of the Tennessee River Association are not alive to the fact that they need these very young men they have already assisted. If our churches would throw off the mantle of covetousness and support the active, toiling, sacrificing ministry that they now have, these good and worthy brethren could far better prepare themselves for this noble work.

Respectfully submitted,

C. T. ROACH,

L. B. IRVIN,

COMMITTEE.

17th. On motion the Association adjourned for preaching according to appointment, at 11 o'clock a. m. Congregation called together by singing, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound." Services conducted by W. L. Crawford; prayer by M. Hill; Scripture read, eleven verses of the 4th chapter of Romans; text, 4th verse of the 25th chapter of the Book of Job: "How then can man be justified with God; or how can man be clean that is born of woman." The sermon was well-timed and forcibly impressed by the speaker and was well received by the delegates, and was enjoyed fully by the large audience. At the conclusion of the services the congregation was lead in singing by Brother D. I. Durham and his four daughters, of Mt. Zion Church.

18th. After singing, the moderator called the Association to order and proceeded to the regular business of the Association.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

19th. Report on Woman's Work being ready was read by the moderator; discussed by J. J. Beeson, J. G. Lowrey and P. Brown, and on motion the report was adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Your committee on Woman's Work submit the following: We have done but little for the want of opportunity. We have collected from Centre Point Church, for ministerial education, $5.00.

Respectfully submitted,

MISS BETTIE BEARD, CHAIRMAN.

20th. The report on Associational Missions being ready was read by the moderator; discussed by J. J. Beeson, J. G. Lowrey, W. L. Crawford, M. Hill, R. M. Higginbotham. On motion it was adopted.

REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL WORK.

Your committee on Associational Work submit the following: The committee appointed at the last Association to consider the propriety of employing a missionary and colporter, met at Kyles the latter part of May, and having the matter under consideration, decided to ask each minister in the Association, who could, to select a place or two in destitution and preach monthly, as to a church, and to report his labor to the Associational Board of Missions, the board or committee promising to aid such brethren as far as they could collect means. The following brethren have reported to the board as follows: D. S. Collins, on Cumberland Mountain, traveled seventy-five miles, preached three sermons, made four religious visits; prospects good. T. M. Caves, at McCoy's Grove, five trips, and labored in a successful meeting of ten days, witnessed thirteen conversions and preached regularly at Starkey school house, where we had a good meeting of days and witnessed eleven conversions, traveled 174 miles, received for services $9.50. G. W. Bain, at McCoy's Grove, preached nine sermons and labored for ten days in protracted meeting, baptized four, preached two sermons at Pleasant Hill, at Sanders' school house, on Coon Creek, and three days at Starkey's; traveled ninety miles; received for services ——. R. M. Hig-

ginbotham, at McCutchen's school house and Box Cove ten days, and preached ten sermons; witnessed several conversions; prospect good; received for services, $2.40. M. Hill, at Larkin's Landing and Box Cove, thirteen days; traveled 114 miles; preached eighteen sermons; prospects good; received $3.30. W. L. Crawford reports sermons preached seventeen; traveled 100 miles; received $3.81; regular station, Box Cove; also preached at other places.

We believe we can thus fill all the destitution in the bounds of the Association, and respectfully ask each church to co-operate with us and take one or two collections for the purpose of paying in part the brethren preaching in destitution.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. BEESON, CHAIRMAN.

21st. Motion made and carried that the moderator appoint a committee of three to report on Orphan's Home. The moderator appointed P. Brown, J. G. Lowrey, and Milton Roach.

The Committee on Religious Services announced that Brother M. Hill would preach at Toney's School-house tonight; C. Howell at Holly Grove Church; J. G. Lowrey at this (Mt Nebo) Church tonight, and also tomorrow at 11 o'clock, a. m.

22nd. On motion, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Benediction by Brother R. M. Higginbotham.

THIRD DAY, SUNDAY, OCT. 3rd, 1897.

MORNING SESSION.

23rd. Association met according to adjournment. Called to order by the moderator, who read the Third Psalm. After reading, the congregation sang, "That Beautiful Land." Prayer by R. M. Higginbotham.

24th. The report on temperance was first called for by the moderator. The committee not being present, the moderator called for the report on Sunday-schools. Report was read by the clerk. This question was discussed with deep interest by John T. Richards, J. F. Fuller, R. M. Higginbotham, Thomas Davis, A. P. Womack, W. L. Crawford. [God grant that the seeds sown may bring a speedy harvest. CLERK.]

25th. On motion, report was adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

26th. We, your committee submit the following:

Another Associational year's labor in Sunday-school work has ended. What we have done has gone on record. How we have measured up to the requirements is known to Him who seeth and understandeth all things. When we look back over the year, we see many places where we might have done better and more efficient work, but with the fleeting moments the opportunities are gone, and the next and only thing we can do is to amend in the future. While the work in the bounds of our Association has not reached that state of perfection which it ought, yet we are profoundly grateful to the Father of us all for the accomplishment of so much on this line.

We are able to state that the work is progressing and more are coming to the work, and are taking hold of it with a degree of earnestness of mind and consecration of heart that will crown their labors with success. The work needs organization and if we were thoroughly organized, with pastor and church united and harmoniously laboring in the cause, but few years would pass before we would see every church in the bounds of our Association at work in the Sunday-school. While progress has been made in the work, and improvements are to be seen nearly everywhere, yet we have fallen short of that degree of success which under the blessing of God would have been ours, if we could have had all the churches in the bounds of our Association enlisted in this great work.

While we would not in any manner say or do a thing that would impede other organizations of Sunday-school workers in the good work in which they are engaged, but on the contrary would lend them our aid in all possible ways, yet we feel sure that as Baptists we could, if well organized, do the Sunday-school work of our churches more efficiently and better than through any other organization or combination. Then let us send the message, and call in the name of God for the plan, the purpose and the power that we need for this work. Brethren, will you not do it?

We are glad to note the continued improvement in our Sunday-school literature. The watchword of our Board, of the editors and others connected with the work, seems to be "onward and upward," and so well have they labored in this direction until the literature now published stands along side by side with the very best published anywhere and by any church. We

therefore recommend the literature of our publication societies, published at Nashville, Tenn., and Philadelphia, Penn.

This is certainly the hour of the church's opportunity. The bells are ringing out the Nineteenth Century and ringing in the Twentieth. We must progress in our work—we must lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes. God will help us do it. In the name of our blessed Savior, who blessed little children, we ask you, brethren, to give your prayers and full co-operation in this the best work of the church, next to the preached word. Brethren, will you do it? Let nothing interfere in this great work for Christ, for if the children be neglected, then the church is neglected, for the children are the hope of the church when we who are now working in its interest, shall be laid to rest. May the blessing of God rest upon this field of labor, so that our sons and daughters may be trained to take our places, left vacant by the veterans who pass beyond the river.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. T. RICHARDS.
JAS. M'CLOUD,
JOS. S. SMALLEY.
COMMITTEE.

The report on Temperance was next called for, and read by W. L. Crawford.

27th. On motion the report was received, and the discussion of the subject was deferred until the afternoon service.

28th. On motion the Association adjourned for preaching, according to appointment at 11 o'clock, a. m.

As the church would not accommodate the large audience, services were held in the grove, conducted by Brother J. G. Lowrey, of the Birmingham Association. After singing, the congregation was led in prayer by Brother J. J. Beeson. Brother Lowrey then read the 60th chapter of Isaiah. After prayer by Brother Lowrey, Brother D. J. Durham and daughters led the congregation in singing, "We will sing hallelujah over there." [There are many good things we could say about this singing, but our space is limited. CLERK.] The brother selected as his text the 18th, 19th and 20th verses of the 28th chapter of Matthew. "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." The sermon was a practical presentation of our duty as the children of God, forcibly impressed by the speaker. It was well received by the delegates, and was enjoyed fully by the large audience.

At the close of the sermon, while Brother D. I. Durham and daughters sang, "Just over the river," a collection was taken up for State Missions and Orphanage. Amount collected, $19.02.

After a few minutes of intermission, the Association was called together by singing. Called to order by the moderator.

29th. On motion, the report on Temperance was taken up re-read by W. L. Crawford. After reading, Brother Durham and daughters sang, "Turn your glasses down, boys." Discussed by M. Hill, P. Brown, W. L. Crawford and A. P. Womack. Report adopted by rising vote.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance submit the following:

We behold with sorrow the havoc and ruin, misery and woe that the use of intoxicating liquors has worked in the homes and families in our county. It has brought ruin and shame upon lives that otherwise might have been useful and brilliant, that would have been loved and honored, but by the use of intoxicating beverages they have made their lives disgraceful and themselves hideous. We rejoice in heart and praise the God of our salvation that by His grace He has delivered the churches of the Tennessee River Association almost entirely from this dreadful curse. We therefore recommend to the churches of this Association not to hold in their fellowship men who make, sell or drink as a beverage this the greatest common enemy of mankind. Let us continue to fight this our enemy out of our churches and out of our county, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

M. HILL, CHAIRMAN.

The moderator then called for the report of Obituaries. Report read by W. T. Trice.

30th. On motion it was adopted.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your committee, submit the following:

Death has visited our land and country during the last year, and quite a number of our brethren and sisters have passed

away. The homes of some of our brethren have been made sad on account of loved ones who have fallen victims to death, who will be with us no more until we strike hands with them in Heaven. The old, the young, the rich, the poor must die. Be ye ready for we know not the hour nor day when death cometh. We find from the church letters twenty-one deaths, reported as follows:

Beech Grove, four; names not given.
Centennial, two; names not given.
Cave Spring, one, Myra Rash.
Goose Pond, one; name not given.
Hollywood, one; name not given.
Mt. Tabor, one; name not given.
Mt. Zion, four; names not given.
Mt. Nebo, one, B. B. Toney.
Mt. Pisgah, two, Cynthia Hill and Elisabeth Sanford.
Mt. Ararat, one, M. Isbell.
Scottsboro, one; name not given.
Trenton, two; names not given.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. TRICE, CHAIRMAN.

The moderator then called for the report on Foreign Missions. Report read by W. L. Crawford. Discussed by W. L. Crawford, P. Brown and others.

31th. Report was adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Foreign Missions, present the following report:

DEAR BRETHREN:—This subject is one that lies very near our hearts; first, because it is our Saviour's command to carry the gospel of salvation to all the nations of the earth, and to every creature of the nations (Matthew xxviii: 19, 20, Mark xvi: 15, 16). Thus Jesus, our Saviour, has commanded us to carry this precious message of life and salvation to those who sit in the regions of darkness and shadow of death, that their blinded eyes may be opened and turned from darkness to light, and receive the forgiveness of their sins, and obtain an inheritance with all those that are sanctified by the faith of Jesus Christ. Now, brethren, if the world ever hears the full gospel, the complete gospel, it must be given them by the Baptists. We that love

Christ, let us prove it by keeping His commandments, and prove the claim that we make to be his executive body in the world. We can more fully establish this act by keeping this commandment. Let us enter the year 1898 with renewed vigor and zeal, with regard to this important work for Christ. I thank God that we have done what we have in this work in the past, but we pray that God may help us to do much more in the future. Last year, with a membership in the Association of 1,585, we collected the sum of $1.334.22 for home uses, $303.77 for missions and education. This is entirely too small an amount for this Association, considering its wealth and resources. We only need to contribute more of our means to this work. We are well organized. Our board, located at Richmond, Va., has done a noble work under God with the means we have given them. We have the men, willing, able and consecrated, and the fields are white to the harvest—all ready. Oh, may God help us to rise up and occupy them. Let our motto be the world for Christ. Our Foreign Mission Board is in debt $13,532.79. Let us help to pay this amount by giving at least one-tenth of what we make each year, and by so doing we will pay off all our debts and be able to run our business without going in debt. This much, in our opinion, is our solemn duty. We owe it to God and to His cause.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. CRAWFORD, CHAIRMAN.

32nd. On motion the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

FOURTH DAY, MONDAY, OCT. 4, 1897.

MORNING SESSION.

33rd. Association met according to adjournment. Called to order by the moderator; opening prayer by C. Howell. The moderator called for the report on State Missions. Report read by Thomad Davis. Discussed by Thomas Davis and P. Brown. On motion it was adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, submit the following, taken from the State Mission Journal:

The State Board of Missions is the organ of the Baptists of Alabama. First, in collecting and remitting contributions for

foreign and home missions; second, in helping infant churches in important points where otherwise Baptist churches could not be established; third, in prosecuting evangelistic work in the State at large for the further evangelizing and enlisting of our people in Christian work; fourth, in doing missionary and colportage work where such is needed; fifth, in caring for aged and disabled ministers and their widows and orphans against want; sixth, in seeking to foster a spirit of fellowship and co-operation between churches in the Master's services, and bringing them to contribute to each others upbuilding and mutual usefulness. It will, therefore, be seen that the work of this board is far-reaching and of the most vital importance. It calls for your money, your heart and your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS DAVIS, CHAIRMAN.

34th. The moderator called for the report on Home Missions. The report not being ready, on motion the report of last year was adopted, allowing the clerk to make such changes as he thought practical.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions submit the following:

As we have had so little time we can not do the subject justice. It is reported by the fifty-second annual report of the Home Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention of 1897, that the hardest year ever experienced by the Home Mission Board has passed into history. It began with a debt of $8,000, and an obligation to pay $5,700 on the house of worship purchased for the First Church in New Orleans, makimg a total of $18,700 over and above the support of our missionaries required to meet our financial needs for the year. The board found itself unable to reduce, to any great extent, its appropriations of the previous year without impairing the efficiency of its work. The great financial pressure which embarrassed all our mission boards served to increase the needs of our Home Mission field, and made numerous and earnest the cries for help that came from nearly every quarter. The board is prosecuting its work along the line of destitution in Southern States, the foreign population in cities, among the Indians in the West, and the negroes in the South and in Cuba. The work in destitute portions is principally in the cities and frontiers in the West.

The board has been assisted by the woman's mission societies of the South, who, under the leadership of the executive committee of the Woman's Missionary Union, did valuable service in the generous contributions they made, and in the interest they created in behalf of the work of the board. They have contributed, in boxes of food, clothing and cash, $29,931.31.

The work among foreign population is most important of all. The Lord is shortening the distance to the foreign countries by sending teeming millions to our country who must be Christianized, or they will infidelize us. Many Indians still remain on the border of our territory who are not Christians.

The work under the plan of co-operation with state conventions, both white and colored, the Home Mission Society and the Home Mission Board is in operation in Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Fourteen missionaries are in the joint employ of these boards: three in Alabama, three in South Carolina, four in North Carolina and four in Virginia. The expenses rest equally upon the boards.

The possibilities growing out of the relation which our Home Board sustains to Cuba are sufficient to justify Southern Baptists in making contributions to the board to send the Gospel to the suffering people of that island.

If the intelligence of our churches should ask: How can we most surely and most speedily accomplish the divine purpose of subduing the earth to Messiah's reign? the answer would be: We must evangelize America, and so imbue all our people with the spirit of the Gospel, that "holiness to the Lord" would be written upon every heart and brain and every earthly possession.

In the opinion of your committee there is no work of greater magnitude before us than the work of calling into immediate action the slumbering energies of the churches, and the prompt realization of their immeasurable power. No wise general is ever neglectful of his base of supplies. This Association is therefore urged to give its warmest moral support to the Home Board in the prosecution of this important department of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. T. RICHARDS, CLERK.

34th. The moderator called for the report on Orphanage. Report read by Milton Roach. Report discussed by Milton Roach and others, and on motion, adopted.

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

We, your committee, appointed to report the Orphanage, beg leave to submit the following report:

That we have one located at Evergreen, under control of a board of trustees, appointed by the Alabama Baptist State Convention, of which the Rev. John W. Steward is the financial agent. To this enterprise Sister Woodson was the best contributor, who at her death gives her entire estate, which amonnts to several thousand dollars. But now these orphans are entirely dependent upon personal donations. Because of the increase in the number of children, it became necessary to enlarge their home, for which there remains some indebtedness. Also, the institution is two months behind with its provision bill.

There are now thirty-eight or forty little children in this home, not only provided with food and raiment, but who are being educated and trained for usefulness in life. We ask that the churches within the bounds of our Association remember these children in their contributions, and that the superintendents of our various Sunday-schools take a collection at least once a month, and forward the same directly to Rev. John W. Steward, at Evergreen.

Respectfnlly submitted,

MILTON ROACH, CHAIRMAN.

35th. The report on Religious Literature was next called and was read by Brother J. J. St. Clair. Discussed by Brothers Milton Roach, P. Brown, W. J. B. Padgett, J. H. Fuller, and on motion was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee on Religious Literature, submit the following:

1. We recommend the Sunday-school series of literature published at Nashville, Tenn., by the Sonthern Baptist Convention, for the reason it is pnblished by our denomination, the Baptist, and that the profits arising from its publication are for the use of the denomination.

2. We would recommend the Alabama Baptist as sound in the faith, and deserving the patronage of our people, by keeping its readers posted in the work of the Baptists and a persistent

effort to raise the people to a higher standard of moral rectitude.

3. There are other good religious papers that we could recommend, such as the Baptist Standard and the Baptist and Reflector, published at Nashville, Tenn., but we think we should give our own State organ the preference.

In preference to any and all literature, we would recommend a diligent and persistent study of the Bible. All of which we respectfully submit.

J. J. ST. CLAIR, CHAIRMAN.

Report on Finance was then called for, and was read by Milton Roach.

REPORT OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

We, your committee, find that the churches have contributed for printing minutes the following amounts: Bridgeport——; Bethel, $1.70; Beech Grove, $1.20; Centennial, 50¢; Cave Spring, 75¢; Centre Point, $1.15; Freedom, $1.13; Friendship, $1.65; Gurley, $1.00; Goose Pond, 60¢; Harmony, $1.50; Hollywood, $1.05; Larkinsville, 75¢; Mt. Nebo, $1.50; Mt. Zion, $1.25; Mt. Tabor, 35¢; Mt. Pisgah, $1.50; Mt. Moriah, $1.50; Mountain Grove,——; McCoy's Grove, 55¢; Mt. Ararat, 55¢; New Hope, 70¢; Pleasant View,——; Scottsboro, $1.50; Ship of Zion,——; Trenton, 50¢. Your committee on finance would say that the churches have contributed for printing the amounts set opposite their names in the report. Total amount, $22.88.

MILTON ROACH, CHAIRMAN.

36th. On motion a special collection was taken up for minutes and expenses. Amount collected, $2.15.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION.

DR.

Dec. 18, 1896, Received of Treasurer Friendship Church	$20.54
Apr. 9, 1897, " " " " "	61.00
May 31, " " at 5th Sunday meeting at Bethel for Associational Missions	4.60
Sept. 30, Received of Treasurer Friendship Church	18.46
Oct. 2. " " " Centre Point Church for Home Missions	1.71
Oct 2. Received of Mt. Pisgah Church for Home and Foreign Missions	3.89
Oct. 2. Received of Mt. Pisgah Church for Associational Missions	1.42
Oct. 2. Received of Mt. Nebo Church for Missions	7.66
Oct. 2. Received of Goose Pond Church by J. L. Walsh for Missions	60
Oct. 2. Received of Centre Point Church, by Miss Bettie Beard, for Ministerial Education	5.00
Oct. 2. Received of Harmony Church by W. B. Campbell for Foreign Missions,, $2.50; Home Missions, $3.25; Orphans' Home, $7.00. Total	12.75
Oct. 3. Sunday collection at Association	19.02
" 4. Received of Larkinsville Church by Brother Cowart, for Associational Missions	3.00
Total	$159.65

CR.

Dec. 18, 1896. Paid J. J. Beeson for Education of R. L. Guinn	$20.34
April 19th 1897. Paid W. C. Bledsoe, for Missions and Ministerial Education	61.00
Oct 2. Paid J. G. Lowrey, for Orphans' Home	16.50
" 6. " W. C. Bledsoe	52.09
Total paid out	$150.13

Leaving a balance of $9.52 for Associational Missions.

Respectfully submitted, MILTON ROACH,

Treasurer Tennessee River Association.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brother Carrell stated that Ship of Zion Church requested the Association to recommend or send some brother to come and preach for them, or hold a meeting with the Church.

1. Motion made and carried that the ministerial delegates present call a meeting during the session of this body and select some one or two to go there and hold a meeting with the Church.

Two queries were presented by Harmony Church as follows:

1. What part of our substance should we contribute to the Lord's cause? 2. By whom should it be contributed?

2. On motion the questions were transferred to the fifth Sunday meeting in October, to be held with the Centre Point Church.

3. Motion made and carried that the moderator appoint an associational executive committee of five to take into consideration any associational work that may be referred to them. The moderator appointed W. L. Crawford, C. Howell, G. P. Bouldin, W. B. Campbell, Milton Roach.

4. On motion the moderator and clerk were added to the committee.

5. The moderator appointed the following delegates to represent us in the State Convention and different associations:

Paint Rock River Association, (colored), Rev. P. Brown, Rev. M. Hill, and Rev. W. L. Crawford.

Delegates to the Mt. Carmel Association, Rev. H. Knight, J. J. St. Clair, Rev. W. L. Crawford, and Rev. R. Howell.

Delegates to the Duck River Asssociation, (Tennessee), E. J. D. Kennedy, Rev. C. Howell, Rev. P. Brown, and J. J. Cunningham.

Delegates to the Cherokee Association, Rev. L. B. Irvin, Rev. C. T. Roach, Rev. James McCloud, and Rev. John T. Richards.

Delegate to the State Convention, J. J. St. Clair.

RESOLUTIONS.

On motion the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered our moderator and clerk for the faithful discharge of their duties.

Resolved, That we return our heartfelt thanks to this church and surrounding community for their boundless hospitality in entertaining the delegates and visitors during its present sitting.

Resolved, That we return our thanks to Rev. J. G. Lowrey, of the Birmingham Association, for his valuable service rendered during the sitting of this body.

Resolved, That this Association return thanks to Brother D. I. Durham and his daughters for the delightful music they furnished during the session of this body.

Brother Durham and his daughters sang "God be with you

till we meet again." There being nothing further to claim the attention of the Association, the moderator addressed the brethren with parting words, and thus introduced a delightful conference and interchange of thought on different passages of Scripture which continued for some time, at the close of which the following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That this Association do now adjourn to meet with Beech Grove church on Friday after the Fourth Sunday in September, 1898.

The old familiar hymn "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord," was sung while the parting hand was extended to some who will never meet with us again, at the close of which prayer was offered by P. Brown, and the Association stood adjourned.

J. J. BEESON, MODERATOR.
JNO. T. RICHARDS, CLERK.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Brown, P., Hollywood,
Crawford, W. L., Maynard's Cove,
Collins, D. S., Kyle,
Howell, R., Fackler,
Isbell, J. W., Limrock,
Knight, H., Trenton,
McCloud, James, Pisgah,
Hastings, S. M., Larkinsville,
Rice, W. E.,
Starkey, C. T., Attalla,
Beeson, J. J., Pisgah,
Caves, Thomas, Fackler,
Eaves, ——, Hollytree,
Howell. C., Francisco,
Irvin, L. B., Pisgah,
Morris, G. W., Kirby's Creek,
Hill, M., Scottsboro,
Higginbotham. R. M., Mud Creek.
Roach, C. T., Pisgah,
Sloan, L. W., Gurley,
Williams, Wm., Winchester, Tenn.

And now we turn our faces to the future. Great are the opportunities which lie out before us. Our God by His word and providences commands us to go forward. With grateful hearts for God's mercies and blessings in the past, let us all seeto it that the next year shall be one in which the parting command of our Savior will be carried out by us as never before. We need for each church and each member to realize that we are a part of God's life-saving service. The great work of Christians is to win this lost world to God. Oh, that the spirit of the Lord may come with saving power upon all of our work. We think the session a very pleasant and profitable one. The spirit of love and harmony pervaded the entire session, and all our interests were ably discussed. Our earnest prayer is that the blessings of God may rest upon all the people in this grand old Baptist Association

and that the next year may be a prosperous one—full of good works.

J. J. BEESON, MODERATOR.

JNO. T. RICHARDS, CLERK.

SPECIAL.

As we go to press the sad news comes to us of the sudden death of our beloved pastor and moderator of the Tennessee River Baptist Association, John J. Beeson, at the residence of Brother S. Thorp, near Centre Point, on Sunday morning, October 31, 1897. He was in attendance at the Fifth Sunday meeting at Centre Point church, and was to preach at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. After breakfast he had taken the Bible, the book he loved so well, to read and make some preparation for the morning services, when all of a sudden, God in His infinite wisdom saw fit to remove from earth to Heaven our beloved pastor and moderator. Although it is so sad and seems almost more than we can bear, yet we are comforted with the thought that He, who doeth all things well, has taken our beloved brother to Himself and that in a little while, at the longest, and we shall join him with all the loved ones who have gone on before, where parting will be no more. In the death of Brother Beeson the Association has lost one amongst its brightest ornaments and most efficient servants, the Misssionary Baptist Church one of the most popular preachers in our county. He was an upright, honorable man, a devout, consecrated Christian gentleman, and was universally esteemed for his many noble traits of character. His great attainments, his broad horizon, his clear insight, his pure heart, his elevated spirit, his calm judgment and his deep piety, fitted him for the noblest service. We thank God for his life, his character, his example, and for the memories of him which rest like a benediction on all our hearts. He was alike great in goodness and good in greatness. Strong in his convictions of truth, genial and loving toward those who could not accept them, cheerful in spirit in all conditions, a fountain of joy among all classes of people, a wise pastor, an able preacher. We put upon record this tribute to his memory in gratitude for the grace of God given to him for such long and faithful service. We tender our sympathy and condolence to the family of our beloved and honored brother.

JNO. T. RICHARDS, CLERK.

STATISTICS OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	CLERK'S P. O. ADDRESS.	Membership Last Reported.	Increase. Baptism.	Increase. Letter.	Increase. Statement.	Increase. Restoration.	Decrease. Letter.	Decrease. Exclusion.	Decrease. Erasure.	Decrease. Deaths.	Present Membership.	SUNDAY-SCHOOLS. Officers and Teachers.	SUNDAY-SCHOOLS. Pupils.	SUNDAY-SCHOOLS. Superintendents' Names and Postoffice Address.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meetings.	Reports Revivals.
Bridgeport	Jackson Co., Ala				81															
Beech Grove	" " "	C Howell	O M Watson	Francisco, Ala	99	9	3		2	6			4	103				2	Yes	Yes
Bethel	" " "	R Howell	M R Morris	Kyles, Ala	99	13	3			3	2		1	109	11		Reports Sunday-school	2		Yes
Centennial	" " "		W M Chandler	Coffey's Store, Ala.						4	2		2	58						
Center Point	" " "	W L Crawford	S P Vaughn	Scottsboro, Ala	61					2	2			57			P L Sowell, Scottsboro, Ala		Yes	Yes
Cave Spring	" " "	R Howell	Isaac M Sentell	Coffey's Store, Ala.						21				35						
Freedom	" " "	C Howell	W W Reid	Estill Fork, Ala	128	2	3			1				132						
Friendship	" " "	J J Beeson	J B Campbell	Fackler, Ala	132	3			1	5	4			127			A P Womack, Fackler, Ala	3	Yes	Yes
Gurley	Madison " "		W T Roberts	Gurley, Ala	115	8	6	1		13	6		1	[illegible]	10	65	W T Roberts, Gurley, Ala	2&4	Yes	Yes
Goose Pond	Jackson " "	M Hill	J L Walsh	Parks' Store, Ala.	13		1			3			1	14				3		
Harmony	" " "	R Howell	C M Higginbotham	Kyle's, Ala	51	1				5				47						
Hollywood	" " "	J J Beeson	J F McCarrell	Hollywood, Ala	30	1	10						1	40				1	Yes	Yes
Larkinsville	" " "		E P Cowart	Larkinsville, Ala	11	1								12						
Mt. Nebo	" " "	J A Eaves	R C Horton	Hollytree, Ala	78	1	6			1			1	83			Reports Sunday-school			Yes
Mt. Zion	" " "	L B Irvin	C R Flowers	Daugherty, Ala	62	2				3				[illegible]				3		Yes
Mt. Tabor	" " "	J J Beeson	L A Wheeler	Kosh, Ala	18		2		1		1		1	23		50	L A Wheeler, Kosh, Ala	2		Yes
Mt. Pisgah	" " "	J J Beeson	John T Richards	Pisgah Ala	142	12	1	4	1	6	4		2	148	6	65	John T Richards, Pisgah, Ala.	4	Yes	Yes
Mt. Moriah	" " "	D S Collins	L R Smith	Nila, Ala	24	27	2		4	1				56			N D Lamb, Nila, Ala	1	Yes	Yes
Mt. Ararat	" " "	J W Isbell	W P Culver	Limrock, Ala	26	3							1	28				2		Yes
Mountain Grove	Franklin Co., Tenn																			
McCoy's Grove	Jackson Co., Ala	G W Bain	H P Blancett											11						Yes
New Hope	" " "	R Howell	J F Terry	Bloomington, Ala.	66									68						
Pleasant Grove	" " "																			
Scottsboro	" " "		W W Howard	Scottsboro, Ala	47		1			9	3		1	35			Reports Sunday-school	3		
Ship of Zion	" " "		S S Puryear	Hollywood, Ala	72															
Trenton	" " "		J W Smith	Trenton, Ala	38					4			2	32				3		
					[illegible]	83	38	5	9	[illegible]	18	2	17	1383	16	180				

26
11
10

Note:---If this exhibit does not give a correct report of your Churches, brethren, your clerk is not in the fault. I have gone over your letters several times to avoid mistakes, and give the report as I find it given in your letters. I find that several of the reports do not correspond with reports made last year, consequently a correct report cannot be given. Do not fail to give a full and as accurate a record as can be obtained.---CLERK.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	MISSIONS.				EDUCATION.								HOME EXPENSES.			TOTAL.	VALUE OF PROPERTY
	State.	Home.	Foreign.	Associational	Ministerial	Assistance.	College Buildings.	From B. Y. P. U.	From Sunday-school for Various Purposes	From Ladies Society for Various Purposes	Orphans' Home	Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, The Poor, etc.	Sunday-Schools.		
Bridgeport												$1 20				$1 20	$600 00
Beech Grove												1 70	$30 00	$5 50	$1 70	38 90	550 00
Bethel												50				50	
Centennial												75	16 90			17 65	800 00
Center Point												1 15	33 00			57 3[illegible]	800 00
Cave Spring		$1 71		$11 50	$5 00		$5 00					1 18				1 1[illegible]	1000 00
Freedom												1 65	60 00		5 00	166 65	500 00
Friendship			$79 46		20 54						$6 25	1 00	300 00	26 80	24 00	642 65	2750 00
Gurley	$4 35	24 20	3 80		12 50	$52 50	5 00	$13 30	$24 00	$44 95		50				1 10	
Goose Pond		60									7 00	1 50	40 00			72 85	250 00
Harmony		3 25	2 50	18 60								1 05	20 00	2 72		26 17	500 00
Hollywood				2 40								75				3 75	250 00
Larkinsville				3 00								1 50	75 00			84 00	500 00
Mt. Nebo			7 56									1 25				1 25	300 00
Mt. Zion												35			3 00	4 [illegible]1	150 00
Mt. Tabor			1 46									1 50	33 00	1 75	6 00	63 [illegible]2	350 00
Mt. Pisgah	7 65		7 65	6 07								1 50				1 50	400 00
Mt. Moriah												55		64 06		64 61	500 00
Mt. Ararat																	
Mountain Grove												55				5	
McCoy's Grove												70	18 00			18 70	200 00
New Hope																	
Pleasant Grove												1 50	136 04	30 00		168 54	1000 00
Scottsboro			1 00														
Ship of Zion												50				50	
Trenton																	
Total.	12 00	29 76	103 43	41 57	38 04	52 50	10 00	13 30	24 00	44 95	13 25	21 73	761 94	130 93	39 70	1338 05	11400 00
	9 51										9 51						
	21 51										22 76						
												Sunday Collection at Association.				19 02	
												Grand Total				1357 07	

Note. This is as full and as accurate as can be obtained from the letters. I find that several of the church letters have failed to make any report of any money being paid out for any purpose. Even the money for minutes was left out of your letters. Brethren, please be more careful about this matter, and give it your careful attention.—CLERK.